

REMARKS

The Applicants have herein amended claims 1, 3 and 6-9, cancelled claims 2 and 4-5, and added new claims 10-13. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. The claims pending in the present application now include claims 1, 3 and 6-13, which are believed to be patentable over the prior art cited previously by the Examining Attorney for the reasons given below.

Independent claim 1 has been amended herein and includes a limitation in connection with the crimp ring, the limitations recited in former claims 2 and 4, and a further description of a critical bending point radius of a reinforcement fiber. Claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over U.S. Patent No. 5,212,750 to Wright (hereinafter "Wright") because Wright does not disclose at least the crimp ring configured to couple with a base ring such that where the at least one reinforcement fiber is secured over the leading edge of the base ring, at least a portion of the at least one reinforcement fiber is disposed between the crimp ring and the base ring. Wright does not disclose this arrangement of the crimp ring and the base ring. Rather, Wright discloses the retention band (73) and the backshell (62) in an arrangement in which at least a portion of a strength member (35) *and* at least a portion of an outer jacket (36) of the cable are disposed between the retention band (74) and the backshell (62) where a portion of the at least one reinforcement fiber is secured over an edge (71) of the backshell (62).

In addition, Wright does not disclose a critical bending point radius of a reinforcement fiber as being a maximum radius of curvature of the reinforcement fiber before it begins to shear, and as being a function of a diameter of the at least one reinforcement member, an elastic modulus of the at least one reinforcement fiber, and a tensile strength of the at least one reinforcement fiber. Rather, Wright suggests that in order to avoid breakage of reinforcement fibers under tension, anchoring configurations configured with large radii over which the strength elements are wrapped can be used. Wright does not disclose a critical bending point radius of a reinforcement fiber as being a maximum radius of curvature before the fiber begins to shear and as being a function of a diameter, an elastic modulus and a tensile strength of the reinforcement member.

Further, Wright does not disclose the leading edge of the base ring defining a radius of curvature greater than or equal to a critical bending point radius of the reinforcement fiber because Wright does not disclose the critical bending point radius as claimed.

Claim 3 is dependent on claim 1 and patentable for at least the same reasons.

Independent claim 6 is patentable over the combination of Wright and Higdon cited previously by the Examiner. Claim 6 is directed to the crimp ring being configured and disposed such that at least a portion of the at least one reinforcement fiber is disposed between the crimp ring and the base ring. The combination of references does not disclose or suggest this limitation of the crimp ring. In addition, for similar reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1, the combination of references does not disclose or suggest a critical bending point radius of the least one reinforcement fiber as being a maximum radius of curvature of the reinforcement fiber before it begins to shear and as being a function of a diameter, an elastic modulus and a tensile strength of the reinforcement fiber. Thus, the combination of references cited does not render claim 6 obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. Therefore, claim 6 is patentably distinguishable therefrom.

Claim 7 depends from claim 6 and is patentable for at least the same reasons.

Independent claim 8 is not unpatentable over the combination of Wright and Higdon cited for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claims 1 and 6. Claim 8, therefore, is patentably distinguishable from Wright in view of Higdon.

Claim 9 is dependent on claim 8 and patentable for at least the same reasons.

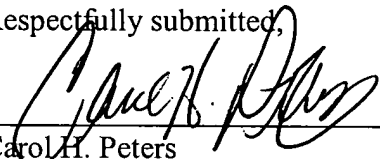
New claims 10-13 do not add new subject matter to the application and have antecedent basis. Claims 10-13 are patentable in view of the references cited previously. Claims 10 and 12 are directed to the crimp ring, as shown in Fig. 3 of the present application, as being configured such that a portion of the crimp ring adjacent and terminating into a first end of the crimp ring is curved inward such that the portion couples to the leading edge of the base ring where the crimp ring is coupled to the base ring. Wright alone or in combination with Higdon does not disclose or suggest this structure of the crimp ring.

In addition, claims 11 and 13 are patentable in view of the prior art references cited. Claims 11 and 13 are directed to a flexible sleeve disposed over the crimp ring where the

crimp ring is coupled to the base ring. This combination and arrangement is not disclosed or suggested by Wright either alone or in combination with Higdon.

Based upon the foregoing amendments and discussion, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and a notice to this effect is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this response, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number provided.

Respectfully submitted,



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